

What Is Claimed Is:

1. A display capable of displaying images in response to signals of a plurality of signal formats, comprising:

5 a controller that is coupled to a plurality of image data interfaces;

wherein said controller selects one of the plurality of image data interfaces according to preference variables associated with each of the plurality of image data interfaces when the plurality of image data interfaces are operating simultaneously.

10 2. The display of claim 1, wherein a first of the plurality of image data interfaces is an analog screen data channel and a second of the plurality of image data interfaces is a digital screen data channel.

15 3. The display of claim 1, wherein a first and a second of the plurality of image data interfaces are elements of a display interface.

20 4. The display of claim 3, wherein the display interface complies with at least one of a Digital Visual Interface (DVI) standard, an OpenLDI standard, an RGB component video standard, a DFP standard, and a P&D standard.

25 5. The display of claim 1, wherein each of the preference variables indicates a relative priority of an image data signal format associated with the corresponding image data interface.

6. The display of claim 1, wherein each of the preference variables indicates one or more performance metrics associated with the quality of image data signals received from the corresponding image data interface.

7. The display of claim 6, wherein the one or more performance metrics includes color quality.

5 8. The display of claim 6, wherein the one or more performance metrics

includes image saturation.

9. A method of establishing operation between a processor and a display, the display capable of displaying images in response to signals of a plurality of signal formats generated by the processor, the method comprising the steps of:

10 detecting a plurality of operating image data interfaces;

identifying the format of each of the plurality of image data interfaces;

and

selecting one of the plurality of image data interfaces.

15 10. The method of claim 9, further comprising the step of:

updating the image data interface selection.

11. The method of claim 9, wherein said selecting step comprises the step of automatically choosing one of the plurality of image data interfaces according to 20 preference variables associated with each of the plurality of image data interfaces.

12. A display adapter capable of receiving signals of a plurality of signal formats and converting the signals for display on a coupled display device, comprising:

25 a controller that is coupled to a plurality of image data interfaces;

wherein said controller selects one of the plurality of image data interfaces according to preference variables associated with each of the plurality of image data interfaces when the plurality of image data interfaces are operating simultaneously.

13. The display adapter of claim 12, wherein a first of the plurality of image data interfaces is an analog screen data channel and a second of the plurality of image data interfaces is a digital screen data channel.

5 14. The display adapter of claim 12, wherein a first and a second of the plurality of image data interfaces are elements of a display interface.

10 15. The display adapter of claim 14, wherein the display interface complies with at least one of a Digital Visual Interface (DVI) standard, an OpenLDI standard, an RGB component video standard, a DFP standard, and a P&D standard.

15 16. The display adapter of claim 12, wherein each of the preference variables indicates a relative priority of an image data signal format associated with the corresponding image data interface.

17. The display adapter of claim 12, wherein each of the preference variables indicates one or more performance metrics associated with the quality of image data signals received from the corresponding image data interface.

20 18. The display adapter of claim 17, wherein the one or more performance metrics includes color quality.

25 19. The display adapter of claim 17, wherein the one or more performance metrics includes image saturation.

20. A method of establishing operation between a processor and a display adapter, the display adapter capable of receiving signals of a plurality of signal

formats and converting the signals for display on a coupled display device, the method comprising the steps of:

detecting a plurality of operating image data interfaces;

identifying the format of each of the plurality of image data interfaces;

and

selecting one of the plurality of image data interfaces.

21. The method of claim 20, further comprising the step of:

updating the image data interface selection.

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22. The method of claim 20, wherein said selecting step comprises the step of automatically choosing one of the plurality of image data interfaces according to preference variables associated with each of the plurality of image data interfaces.

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